

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Genetic markers in the porcine melanocortin-4 receptor (MC4R) gene are disclosed which are associated with favorable meat quality traits including, drip loss, marbling, pH and color. Further, novel sequence data from regions of the gene are disclosed which may be used in a PCR test to screen for the presence of the marker. The genetic marker may be used to screen animals for breeding purposes which have the desired traits. Kits which take advantage of the PCR test are also disclosed.